

Appl. No. : **09/804,457**
Filed : **March 12, 2001**

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-29, 49, and 50 remain pending in the application. The Applicants have amended Claims 1, 21-24, and 26-29. Claim 9 has been canceled. The specific changes to the amended claims are shown above, wherein the insertions are underlined and the ~~deletions are stricken through~~. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Discussion of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-29, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Paragraphs 1 and 2 for failing to specify that the cells comprise at least one voltage regulated ion channel. Claims 1, 21, 22-24 and 26-29 have been amended to include this limitation. Although this should be clear from the “comprising” language, this limitation is not intended to exclude the additional presence of one or more other types of ion channels in the cells.

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CONCLUSION

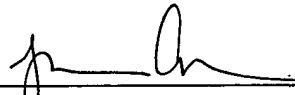
The Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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